

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



IDENTITY THEFT AWARENESS

What is Identity Theft?

- California Penal Code Section 530.5 (a) states;

Every person who willfully obtains personal identifying information of another person, and uses that information for any unlawful purpose, including to obtain, or attempt to obtain, credit, goods, services, real property, or medical information without the consent of that person, is guilty of a public offense, and upon conviction, shall be

punished by a fine, by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one year, or by both a fine and imprisonment, or by imprisonment in the state prison.



How do thieves get information?

- They steal wallets and purses containing your ID, credit and bank cards.
- They steal your mail, including your bank & credit card statements, pre-approved offers, & tax info.
- They complete a “change of address form” to divert your mail to another location.
- Dumpster Diving. They rummage through trash for personal data.
- They obtain your credit report by posing as a landlord, employer or creditor.
- “Shoulder surfing” while you pay at stores.

...continued

- Internet searching – Background searches
- “Phishing” - They scam you, often through email, by posing as legitimate companies or government agencies you do business with.
- They get information from their workplace by stealing, bribing, and extorting.
- Avoid giving your credit to waiters, etc. and letting it out of your sight.
- Don't leave personal information in your vehicle.



What do thieves do with the info?

- They call your credit card issuer, pretending to be you, and change your mailing address.
- They open a new credit card account using your information.
- They establish utilities in your name.
- They open a bank account in your name and write bad checks.
- They counterfeit checks or debit cards in your name, and drain your bank account.
- They buy cars and houses by taking out loans in your name.

Recent News Articles

- ❑ **“ATM skimming is approaching a billion-dollar issue,” said Robert Siciliano, a security consultant to Intelius.com, which offers identity-theft monitoring and awareness training. Thieves are using advanced equipment as they target some of the 400,000 ATMs in the United States, he said.**
- ❑ **A San Diego man accused of placing a debit card skimming device on a bank security door and ATMs so he could steal the PINs of thousands of customers pleaded not guilty Wednesday to 45 charges, including identity theft and burglary. In addition to the debit card skimming device on the bank's security door, the suspect allegedly installed covert cameras aimed at capturing customers entering their PINs while using ATMs.**
- ❑ **An ongoing investigation has found that the Social Security numbers of approximately 28,600 people in the database were illegally retrieved by the hacker. UCLA began notifying them on Jan. 10, 2007. The affected parties are limited to approximately 18,500 UCLA student financial aid applicants from 2002 through 2006 and 10,100 former employees.**

What if you become a victim?

- Report the crime to the local police

San Diego Police 619-531-2000

- Report the crime to the 3 major credit bureaus

Experian 888-397-3742

Equifax 800-525-6285

TransUnion 800-680-7289

- Call all creditors

- Request information on fraudulent accounts

Document the people, phone numbers and companies you call

Make notes of all pertinent information

Request copies of all account information

Forward ALL information to detective

- Report the crime to the Federal Trade Commiss.

FTC.org

Prevention

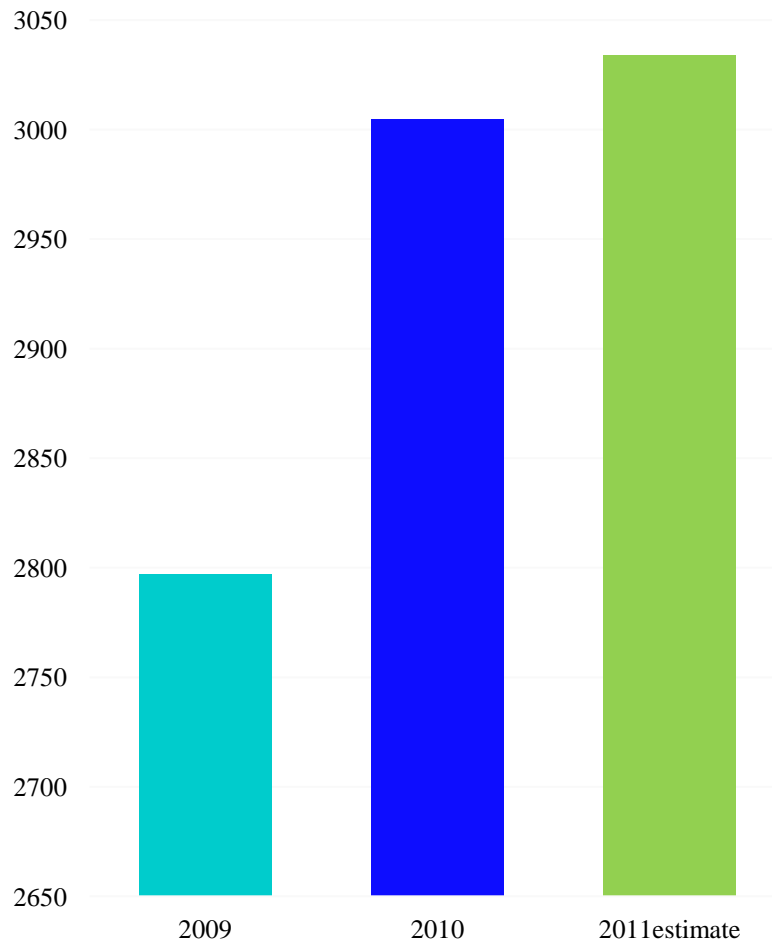
- Order and review your credit reports once a year.
- Place passwords on your credit card, bank and phone accounts.
- Secure personal information in your home.
- Guard your personal information. Don't give out your personal information unless you initiated the contact, and you know who you are dealing with.
- Guard your mail & trash. Deposit mail at the post office. Get a Shredder.
- Pay bills online using "secure servers"

...Prevention continued

- Be suspicious of telephone solicitors
- Pay attention to your billing statements and cycles.
- Limit your personal information on social networks such as Facebook, MySpace, etc.
- OPT OUT of preapproved credit card offers (Have to give SSN) (888) 5OPT OUT or 888-567-8688.



Statistics



	by Month/Year		
	2009	2010	2011
Jan	269	235	231
Feb	252	216	233
Mar	332	276	290
Apr	257	284	254
May	294	292	264
Jun	271	281	263
Jul	232	244	235
Aug	203	251	
Sep	159	228	
Oct	173	248	
Nov	173	227	
Dec	182	223	
Total	2797	3005	1770
		2011estimate>>>	3034